

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 10 as follows:**

X<sub>1</sub> X<sub>2</sub> X<sub>3</sub> X<sub>4</sub> X<sub>5</sub> X<sub>6</sub> X<sub>7</sub> X<sub>8</sub> X<sub>9</sub> X<sub>10</sub> X<sub>11</sub> X<sub>12</sub> X<sub>13</sub> X<sub>14</sub> X<sub>15</sub> X<sub>16</sub> [X<sub>i</sub>]<sub>n</sub> X<sub>17</sub> X<sub>18</sub> X<sub>19</sub> X<sub>20</sub>

X<sub>21</sub> X<sub>22</sub> X<sub>23</sub> [X<sub>j</sub>]<sub>n</sub> X<sub>24</sub> X<sub>25</sub> X<sub>26</sub> X<sub>27</sub> X<sub>28</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 5)

wherein: X<sub>1</sub> is L, I, V, M, A or P;

X<sub>2</sub> is any amino acid residue;

X<sub>3</sub> is P, T or S;

X<sub>4</sub> is L, I, V, M, A or P;

X<sub>5</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>6</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>7</sub> is L, I, V, M, A, F, Y or W;

X<sub>8</sub> is C, T or S;

X<sub>9</sub> is R, K or H;

X<sub>10</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>11</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>12</sub> is L, I, V, M, A or P;

X<sub>13</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>14</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>15</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>16</sub> is L, I, V, M, A, P, G, C, T or S;

[X<sub>i</sub>]<sub>n</sub> is a sequence of n amino acids wherein n is from 1 to 50 amino acids and wherein the sequence X<sub>i</sub> may comprise the same or different amino acids selected from any amino acid residue;

X<sub>17</sub> is L, I, V, M, A or P;

X<sub>18</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>19</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>20</sub> L, I, V, M, A or P;

X<sub>21</sub> is P;

X<sub>22</sub> is L, I, V, M, A, P or G;

X<sub>23</sub> is P or N;

[Xj]<sub>n</sub> is a sequence of n amino acids wherein n is from 1 to 50 amino acids and wherein the sequence Xj may comprise the same or different amino acids selected from any amino acid residue;

X<sub>24</sub> is L, I, V, M, A or P;

X<sub>25</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>26</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>27</sub> is Y or F;

X<sub>28</sub> is L, I, V, M, A or P.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 18 as follows:**

X<sub>1</sub> X<sub>2</sub> X<sub>3</sub> X<sub>4</sub> X<sub>5</sub> X<sub>6</sub> X<sub>7</sub> X<sub>8</sub> X<sub>9</sub> X<sub>10</sub> X<sub>11</sub> X<sub>12</sub> X<sub>13</sub> X<sub>14</sub> X<sub>15</sub> X<sub>16</sub> [Xi]<sub>n</sub> X<sub>17</sub> X<sub>18</sub> X<sub>19</sub> X<sub>20</sub>

X<sub>21</sub> X<sub>22</sub> X<sub>23</sub> [Xj]<sub>n</sub> X<sub>24</sub> X<sub>25</sub> X<sub>26</sub> X<sub>27</sub> X<sub>28</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 5)

wherein: X<sub>1</sub> is L, I, V, M, A or P;

X<sub>2</sub> is any amino acid residue;

X<sub>3</sub> is P, T or S;

X<sub>4</sub> is L, I, V, M, A or P;

X<sub>5</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>6</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>7</sub> is L, I, V, M, A, F, Y or W;

X<sub>8</sub> is C, T or S;

X<sub>9</sub> is R, K or H;

X<sub>10</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>11</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>12</sub> is L, I, V, M, A or P;

X<sub>13</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>14</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>15</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>16</sub> is L, I, V, M, A, P, G, C, T or S;

[Xi]<sub>n</sub> is a sequence of n amino acids wherein n is from 1 to 50 amino acids and wherein the sequence Xi may comprise the same or different amino acids selected from any amino acid residue;

X<sub>17</sub> is L, I, V, M, A or P;

X<sub>18</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>19</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>20</sub> L, I, V, M, A or P;

X<sub>21</sub> is P;

X<sub>22</sub> is L, I, V, M, A, P or G;

X<sub>23</sub> is P or N;

[X]<sub>j</sub> is a sequence of n amino acids wherein n is from 1 to 50 amino acids and wherein the sequence X<sub>j</sub> may comprise the same or different amino acids selected from any amino acid residue;

X<sub>24</sub> is L, I, V, M, A or P;

X<sub>25</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>26</sub> is any amino acid;

X<sub>27</sub> is Y or F;

X<sub>28</sub> is L, I, V, M, A or P.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 20 as follows:**

The present inventors have shown that a common role of SOCS boxes from several different classes of proteins is to bind to elongins B and C. The elongin B and C complex has previously been shown to bind to elongin A to form an active transcriptional elongation complex or to the von Hippel Lindau (VHL) tumor suppressor protein (15, 16). The sites on elongin A and VHL which interact with elongin C have been mapped and the consensus binding sequence (T,S,P)LXXX(C,S)XXZX(LIV) (SEQ ID NO:4) is also conserved in the N-terminal half of all SOCS boxes (16).

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 3 as follows:**

~~Figure 1 is a photographic representation~~ Figures 1A-1B are photographic representations showing purification of SOCS box-binding proteins from murine myeloid M1 cells. ~~Panel~~ AFigure 1A, SDS-PAGE (14% w/v Novex gel) analysis of affinity column eluates from GST-

Sepharose column (lane 1), from GST-SOCS-1-SOCS-box-Sepharose column (lane 2), and from GST-SOCS-3-SOCS-box-Sepharose column (lane 3). The proteins were visualized by Coomassie blue staining. *Arrows* in lane 2 indicate the positions of the two protein bands excised for sequencing analysis by mass spectrometry. The molecular mass markers (in kilodaltons) are shown on the left. ~~Panel B~~Figure 1B, Western blot analysis of the three affinity column eluates mentioned in panel A by anti-rat elongins B and C antibodies. Anti-rat elongins B and C antibodies (cross react with murine and human elongins B and C) were purchased from Santa Cruz and used as a mixture of antibodies.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 28 line 21 as follows:**

~~Figure 7 is a photographic representation~~ Figures 7A-7B are photographic representations showing M1 cells expressing FLAG-tagged SOCS-1 (lanes 1-5 (Figure 7A) and 1-3 (Figure 7B)) or FLAG-tagged SOCS-1 lacking a SOCS box (lanes 6-10 (Figure 7A) and 4-6 (Figure 7B)) were lysed. Lysates were then purified on an anti-flag affinity column and eluted and subjected to SDS-PAGE. Gels were blotted and membranes were then probed with antisera to the indicated proteins.